



Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California
April 2025
Writer/Editor: Lise Bixler
(lisebixler@sbcglobal.net)

Most of you know Cherry Thompson from her role leading our club—she has been the President of The Gardeners' Club since 2009! But did you know she is also a

Worm Composting

Worm composting—vermicomposting—is an easy and fun way to turn kitchen scraps into valuable castings

Master Composter? In 2006 she completed the Santa Cruz Master Recycler Volunteer Training Program (see back page of the newsletter for more information) In that role, she fed worm bins at Grey Bears and the Live Oak Grange for a number of years as well as doing classroom



presentations in K-6 grades. She loves her worms!

At our April Meeting, Cherry will demonstrate how to start & feed a worm bin. She'll explain the process of making worm tea, and how to use it. She'll bring a counter top stainless steel food scrap container to raffle as well as a gallon of compost tea.

Vermicomposting is a process where worms, like red wigglers, consume organic matter (food scraps, yard waste) and convert it into a valuable soil amendment called vermicompost (worm castings).

What are the **benefits**?

- **Diverts food waste:** Vermicomposting reduces the amount of food waste that goes into landfills.
- **Creates valuable resources:** Worm castings are a rich source of nutrients for plants.
- **Promotes healthy soil:** Worms aerate the soil and improve its structure, making it easier for plants to grow.

- **Easy and space-efficient:** Vermicomposting can be done in small spaces, even in apartments, making it a great option for urban dwellers.



About Cherry: "I retired in January 1998 as the Records and Warrants Supervisor the Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office after 20 years. I volunteered at the College of Botanical Healing Arts (Aromatherapy)

and then worked as an Office Manager for Martha Benedict's Acupuncture office for 5 years. I've lived in the same house since 1973,

and my garden (and gardening) has evolved. In addition to my presidency at The Gardeners' Club, I have been very involved with the UCSC Osher Lifelong Learning Institute gardening group called 'OLLI Grow Getters' that focuses on gardening to promote biodiversity and land stewardship, a great place for lifelong learners to engage with gardening and learn about local flora and fauna."

**Next meeting
Thursday
7:00 pm April 10
Aptos Grange Hall
2555 Mar Vista Dr.**



Backyard Series: Growing Flowers from Seeds

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025; 9:30AM - 12PM

LOCATION: UCSC HAY BARN AND GREENHOUSE
(PARK IN THE HAY BARN PARKING)

Cost: Based on your ability to pay. Workshop fees go to support the Center for Agroecology. Please select the price that works for you.

In this workshop led by UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology's Farm Garden Manager Christof Bernau, we'll discuss best practices for sowing, cultivating seedlings and transplanting flowers. We will explore strategies for planning and timing a successful warm season flower garden in this region. During the hands-on portion of the workshop we will discuss/examine soil mix qualities for successful seedling development, challenges with very small seeds, sow seeds and examine the developmental stages of young seedlings.

Special guest Renee Shepherd will speak on easy to grow flowers for the Monterey Bay area and will have seed packets on hand to share. Participants will all take home a small selection of just sown seed/containers that that can grow on for the coming season. Whether this is your first time sowing seeds or you have been stewarding your garden for years this will be a great way to spring into the growing season.

Things to Bring: Gardening gloves, layered clothing, sturdy shoes, and rain gear depending on the weather—will happen rain or shine. We'll be walking up to the farm's greenhouse after the presentation in the Barn, which features a small incline/slope.

Pre-registration is required for this workshop at <https://center-for-agroecology.company.site/products/Backyard-Series-Growing-Flowers-from-Seeds-p720653426>.

Presented by the Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden. Members receive a 10% discount on workshop costs. Learn more about becoming a member and sign up at <https://agroecology.ucsc.edu/get-involved/join-the-friends/index.html>.



NEW BOOK!



Just released, Secrets from the Flower Farm by Rebecca Starling and Christine McCabe helps you learn how to grow exquisitely beautiful cut flowers wherever you live in this climate-conscious guide. What is the secret to growing abundant cut flowers even in unpredictable conditions? This complete guide to the seed-to-vase journey reveals how to grow flowers with incredible fragrance, embrace sustainability, and discover gorgeous new varieties of homegrown blooms.

Flower farmer Rebecca Starling shares her secrets to successfully growing cut flowers for the home. Whether a growing space is large or small, it's remarkably easy to be surrounded by color for many months of the year. Flower-farm secrets include unusual, heirloom, and new plant choices; trending plants and flower fashion; cold-hardy, heat-tolerant, and drought-resistant plants; soil blocking and successful growing from seed; drying your own flowers; the importance of day length; low-maintenance plants for busy people; hero flowers for every season; and recipes for stunning arrangements. This book examines innovative ways of growing, and shares the clever plant choices that will produce armfuls of flowers to be cut for months on end.



WEBINAR! Growing Avocados on the central coast



Planting & Caring for Your Vegetable Garden - ONLINE!

FREE—April 17th—5:30-7:00 pm

Event type: Webinars

Register Here

Monterey Bay Master Gardeners

April 24, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Venue: ONLINE Price: FREE

Did you know you can grow great avocados in our cool foggy summers? Join our online workshop to learn all about avocados! Find out which varieties do best in our Monterey Bay area, how to choose a good tree and how to plant it properly, how to care for and fertilize your tree as well as protect it from pests.

Register at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/growing-avocados-on-the-central-coast>



This second class in our Vegetable Growing series will give you the information you need to get your vegetable seeds and/or transplants into the ground and off to a good start.

We will also discuss watering, thinning, weeding, and fertilizing to keep them growing strong and healthy. Come join us to continue the adventure!

You don't need to have attended the 1st class to attend this one

In Oregon, the Kings County Master Gardeners offer a series of online classes in their Growing Groceries series. They are open to everyone, and you can sign up for this one for only \$8.00, or sign up for the whole warm season series.



GROW THE 'OTHER' EDIBLE NIGHTSHADES: PEPPERS, TOMATILLOS, EGGPLANT

with Extension Master Gardener, Jean Jones.

What does it take to grow sumptuous peppers, tomatillos, and eggplant? Are you hungry for tips to control those pesky flea beetles? Jean shares her expertise about cultivar selection, planting, growing, and enjoying these popular edible nightshades. <https://kingcounty.mastergardenerfoundation.org/education/gg/>





**Bookshop Santa Cruz Event
Talk and Book Signing
Date: Wed, 4/23/2025
Time: 7:00pm - 8:00pm**

Debbie Millman, award-winning artist, designer, and the host of the podcast Design Matters, will discuss her beautiful new book *Love Letter to a Garden*, a visual story of falling in love with gardening—and the philosophies that work conjures. This event is cosponsored by The Humanities Institute at UC Santa Cruz.

"This book is everything! After reading it, I just sat with my heart

my throat laughing and tearing up. I've read and loved Millman's work for so long, but this may be my new favorite! *Love Letter to a Garden* is bold, beautiful, brilliant, and deeply personal. I have never read a book that at once makes me want to plunge my hands in the soil, hug my beloved, and cook a meal." — Jacqueline Woodson, author of *Brown Girl Dreaming*, winner of the National Book Award

Your RSVP helps us plan for your arrival and keep in touch with any changes. Thank you for registering! https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeeQrygbgHXE8djzBVkZUymyHuzTrv6FToKvuulwr_gBQ52qg/viewform

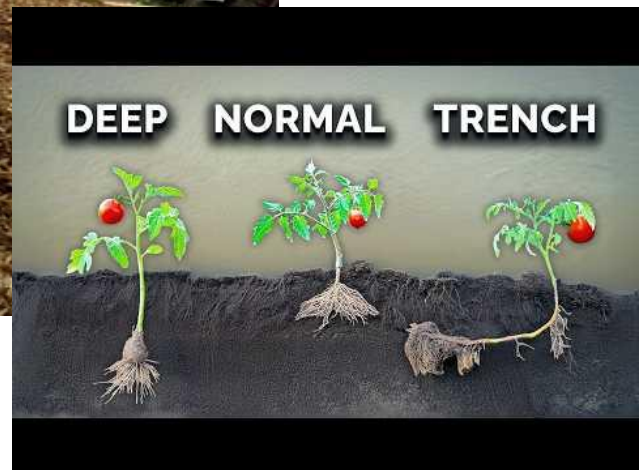


Debbie Millman always thought of herself as a bad gardener. Nevertheless, she kept trying. Over the years she came to realize that no one is a bad gardener—a garden is a journey that develops over time, through space, and evolves along with our hearts. In *Love Letter to a Garden*, Debbie Millman shares her journey to make and grow a garden—and the plants she has collected along the way—a process that started with handed-down houseplants from beloved friends and a lone peony.

Spread throughout are simple recipes using the garden's ingredients from Millman's wife, bestselling author Roxane Gay. *Love Letter to a Garden* is a little gem of a book—an inspiring, impulse-friendly story that can be read in one setting, then shared, experienced, pollinated, and perpetuated.

"A tender ode to the passage of time, to the quiet ways in which nature anneals and consecrates our human nature, and an exquisite testament to the personal as the supreme portal to the universal." —Maria Popova, writer

**Bookshop Santa Cruz, 1520 Pacific Ave
Santa Cruz (831) 423-0900**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZSIK-1MV> |

MONTEREY BAY AREA CACTUS AND
SUCCULENT SOCIETY PRESENTS:

Spring Show and Sale 2025

Portuguese
Community Hall
124 Atkinson Lane
Watsonville, CA

Free & Open to the Public:
Saturday, April 19 – 9AM – 5PM
Sunday, April 20 – 9AM – 3PM
Society members only early
access: Friday, April 18, 3–6 pm

- Learn from seasoned plant experts
- Hundreds of cacti and succulents as well as pottery and supplies
- Marvel at Exotic Showplants
- Plant Care Demonstrations
- Free Admission
- Free Parking

See our website for more
information:
mbsucculent.org



Featuring

10,000 sq ft full of plants, pottery, and items for successful horticulture

Wide aisles that are easy to navigate; up to five pay points means short or no lines at check out

Two dozen plant vendors selling unusual species of succulents & cacti you can't buy at stores.

Beautiful, hand-made pottery from members of our club

Plant Hotel (store plants while you shop)

Hundreds of exceptional specimens of cacti and other succulents on display in the plant show

Expert growing advice, live planting demonstrations.

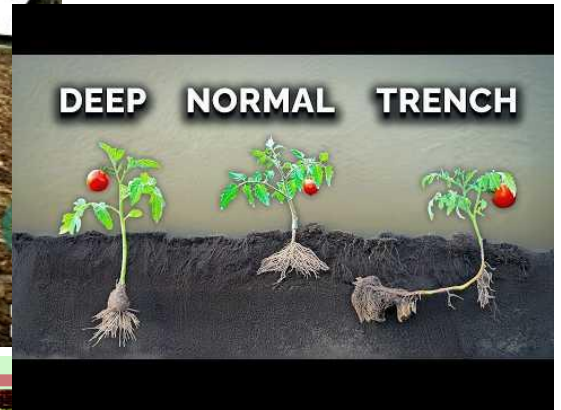
Habitat & conservation info.

Proceeds support the Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society's monthly programs and further our mission of education, conservation, and propagation. <https://mbsucculent.org/meetings/>





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZSIK-1MV_I



Assess Your Garden's Winter Health

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/planning-and-preparing-your-vegetable-garden-part-2-in-person>



Happy National Poetry Month!

Prune back herbaceous perennials (example: salvia), to promote plant bushiness.



Sow bean, corn, cucumber, melon, and winter squash seed directly in the ground. Consider a soaker hose to conserve water in your vegetable garden. Start planting summer annuals like lobelia, begonia,

Workshop: Tomato Masters. Love Apple Farms, Cynthia Sandberg. [March 30, 2025 \(Sunday\)](https://www.growbetterveggies.com/class-tomato-ma.html)
[10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.](https://www.growbetterveggies.com/class-tomato-ma.html)
\$69 <https://www.growbetterveggies.com/class-tomato-ma.html>



Growing C

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM ONLINE

Now is a great time to plant a citrus tree! Contact Trink Praxel, trinkpraxel@gmail.com, 831-345-1440, Master Gardeners. <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/growing-citrus>



It's a Two-Fer! Plant sales for Cabrillo Horticulture AND the Native Plant Society—same day same place!-

Join us for a **blooming good time** as we mark the Horticulture Department's golden anniversary! ✨

🌱 What's Growing On?

🎨 *Featured Artist:* Lili Arnold, Botanical Illustrator

🏺 *Cabrillo Ceramics Department - Unique, handcrafted treasures*

🥙 *Empanada Pop-Up: Fonda Felix serving up tasty bites*

🌿 *Spring Plant Sale with Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay*

📅 **Saturday, April 12, 2025**

🕒 **9 AM - 1 PM**

📍 *Happening alongside the California Native Plant Society Sale!*

☀️ Plant Highlights:

🌱 Native Plants

💧 Water-Wise Perennials & Shrubs

🌵 Succulents & Cacti

🥕 Organic Veggie Starts

🏠 Houseplants

🌿 Don't miss this fun, festive day full of plants, art, food, and community! 🥰 🌱



**Cabrillo Horticulture
Spring Plant Sale**

WHEN
Saturday April 12th
9am to 1pm

WHERE
Cabrillo Horticulture
Sanders Ave, Aptos
at the top of campus

In collaboration with

- The California Native Plant Society Santa Cruz County Chapter's Spring Plant Sale
- Lili Arnold Studios — artwork
- Cabrillo Clay Club — ceramics
- Fonda Felix — coffee and empanadas
- Monterey Bay Master Gardeners

Perennials
Plants for pollinators
Sunflowers
Indoor plants
Organic veggie starts
California native plants
Hort merch

Parking at the top of the hill.
Overflow parking + shuttle van available at Perimeter Rd and Sanders Ave

📷 @cabrillohorticulture



Santa Cruz County Chapter California Native Plant Society Spring Plant Sale!

April 12th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

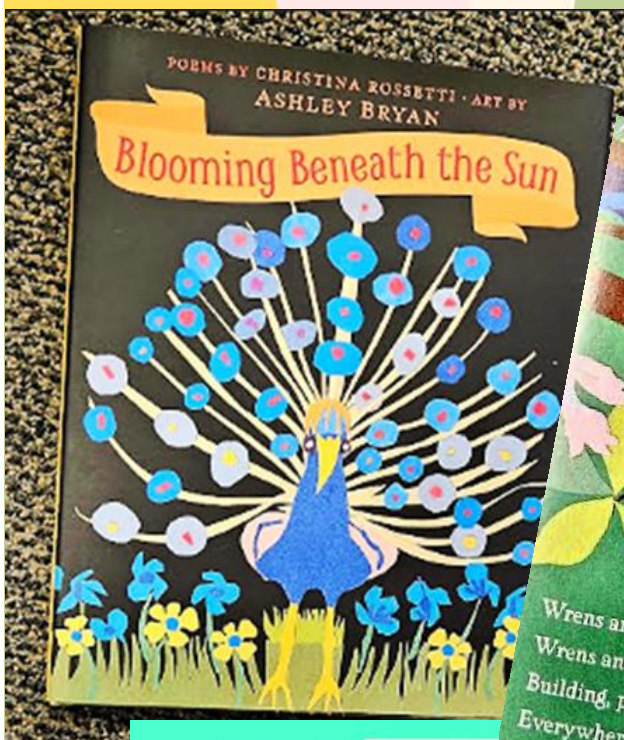
Our spring sale of California Native plants will include some very local natives, irises, annuals and shrubs. The sale is held at the same time, next to the Cabrillo College Horticulture Department sale of native and non-native plants. There will likely be native succulents at one or both of the sales. Parking is somewhat limited, so if you are able, park a little lower down, purchase, and then drive up to pick up your plants.

Happy National Poetry Month

from Livingston Manor Free Library!

Poetry is not only dream and vision; it is the skeleton architecture of our lives. It lays the foundations for a future of change, a bridge across our fears of what has never been before.

— Audre Lorde

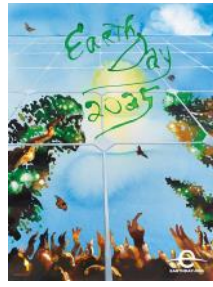


Spring Is Like A Perhaps Hand

III
Spring is like a perhaps hand
(which comes carefully out of
out of
Nowhere)
arranging
a window, into which people look
(while
people stare
arranging and
changing placing
carefully there a
strange
thing and a known
thing here) and
changing everything carefully
spring is like a
perhaps
Hand in a window
(carefully to
and fro moving
New and
Old things,
while
people stare
carefully
moving a perhaps
fraction of flower
here placing
an inch of air
there)and
without breaking
anything.

— e.e. cummings,
from Selected Poems

Last call! The time has come for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are only \$20.00. Dues entitle members to all club educational programs, our special events, plant trades and our awesome monthly newsletter. The “green” option is to receive an electronic PDF FULL-COLOR version of the newsletter by checking the newsletter e-mail option below. Consider sharing your passion for gardening, and supporting our club, by giving your favorite gardening enthusiast an opportunity to connect, share and learn with us. A gift membership is a gift nobody will want to return!



Ours is a club celebrating the joys of gardening, friendship, community, learning, nature and growth. We have a history of giving to the community, and have focused this giving in the last few years on scholarships for Cabrillo College students who are working towards careers in horticulture. Because our dues are so low and we'd like to be able to continue to give scholarships as needed, we are giving you the option of making an additional gift with your membership. Thank you!

Renew now so you don't miss anything—you'll be glad you did.

Your Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

How would you like your newsletter? E-mail (FULL COLOR!!!)



Paper (Black & white; postal service)

Gift Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

Gift Membership Newsletter —Check ONE:

E-mail (FULL COLOR!!!) (the green option...save trees)

Paper (Black & white; via Snail Mail)



Enclose check for \$20 per member, plus any additional contribution to our scholarship fund, made out to *The Gardeners' Club*.

Mail to The Gardeners' Club
c/o Suzanne Caron, P.O. Box 3025,
Ben Lomond CA 95005

Membership amount	\$ _____
I would like to make an additional gift	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____



Food Waste

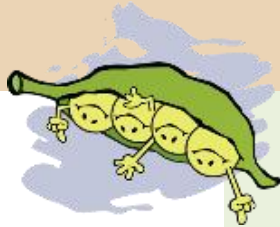
Santa Cruz Master Recycler Volunteers are community advocates that educate and inspire their fellow citizens to reduce waste, recycle right and divert food waste from the landfill. Are you interested in training to become a volunteer? Information and a training application can be found at <https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/Home/Components/Form/Form/e463622f49f74686a2cad6f70a88ea9b/4225>



Our front page logo is graciously shared with us by artist Lisa Zador. Order a print or see more of her work at her Etsy shop www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern.

each month at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond, Dues are \$20 per calendar year. Make check

It's easy-peasy to join our club!



The Gardeners' Club
 P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005

President
 Cherry Thompson, 475-0991
 cherrylea@comcast.net

Vice President & Publicity
 Vacant

Secretary
 April Barclay, 688-7656
 ABarclay@aol.com

Treasurer
 VACANT

Membership
 Suzanne Caron 609-6230
 Suzanne.bottomline@gmail.com

Hospitality
 Joanna Hall
 628821
 jhaveclock@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Writer/Editor
 Lise Bixler, 457-2089
 lisebixler@sbcglobal.net

Members-at-Large
 Pat McVeigh
 566-4553
 pmcveigh@baymoon.com

Webmaster
 Joe Thompson
 www.thegardenersclub.org

Members-at-Large
 Debbie Kindle
 poppy-54@live.com

Plant Table
 Lupe Allen, 247-2705
 lupea@ucsc.edu

Refreshments
 George & Evelyn Zhovreboff
 (916) 303-3673
 zhovreboff@aol.com

Refreshments
 Marge Gregory
 684-1529
 margereggo-141@gmail.com